OUR CUSTOMS SERVICE.

The Mode of Ascertaining Values and Assessing the Tariff Rates.

AN INSIGHT INTO THE APPRAISER'S DEPARTMENT.

Duties on Silks, Diamonds, Furs, Liquors, Millinery Goods and the Liquor Tests.

THE INFLUX OF JAPANESE GOODS.

STATISTICS FOR THE MILLION.

Few persons, unless they are actual importers, have the slightest uses of the intricacies with which the clearances of imports are surrounded. All invoices of merchandise, as soon as numbered, are sent om the Custom House to the Invoice Bureau of the where they are distributed to the different divisions, according to the class of merchandise they represent, and when all the goods are examined and the quality, quantity and class of wares ascertained and determined; also the true market value at the time and place of shipment.

As the Appraiser's Department is really the most

important branch of the Customs Department, where the values of imports are thoroughly ascertained and assessed, the utmost system and efficiency is requisite, and under the present chief, Mr. Silas B. Dutcher, its organization is admirable. The department is divided into ten divisions, each one having allotted to it a number of articles for appraisement out of the many thousand designated by the law as dutiable. The first division is in charge of Mr. William Allen,

Assistant Appraiser. The principal duties performed iamaged on the voyage of importation, the examination of passengers' baggage and personal effects sent to the public stores, express packages, sample parcels and green fruits of all kinds where any damage exists; the appraisement of all seized goods, also of emigrant

the public stores, express packages, sample parceis and green fruits of all kinds where any damage exists the appraisament of all selected goods, also of emigrant baggage at Castle Garden.

THAR IS IMPARTAT AND PERCIOSS STONES.

In the second division, under the control of Mr. All-bert Gilbert, are examined the following numerous and important articles of merchandise:—Antiquities, bronzes, clockt, fancy goods of every description, small nod fancy manufactures of alabaster, glass, marble, norcellain and spar; fancy boxes, gold beaters skin, gold and silver ware, jewelly of all kinds, little-graphic stones, mostles mescal lateraments, optical, philosophical and photographic apparatus, precious stones, regalias, tops, watches, watch materials, books, paintings, paper, printed matter, scaling wax, stationery, types, works of art.

In the administration of the affairs of this division, having so great a scone or multiplicity of articles; complications have arisen from the ambiguity of the tarifle is the application of the advision was and the like. Merchants in making, compasitions and the like. Merchants in making compasitions and the like. Merchants in making their importations are guideed by commercial and precious atomas of the precious metals, compasitions and the like. Merchants in making their importations are guideed by commercial importations are guideed by commercial importations are guideed by commercial and precious atomas and commercial designations, and the like application of the advisions and precious metals and precious atomas and precious metals and precious atomas and precious metals are guideed by a commercial designation, and the like application of the precious metals are durable, not as jewelry, but as small-printing in importations are guideed by commercial and third the classes of articles worn on the p

ishing very rapidly, as large qualities of the finest make are manufactured here how.

TRADE WITH JAPAN.

There is a large increase in the products of Japanese goods, on most of which there is a duty of thirty-five per cent. The main portion of this traffic comes here by way of San Francisco. The trade in fancy goods between the United States and Japan since the Cenemial Exhibition has very largely increased, probably to the extent of 200 or 300 per cent. The immention of rabor in the examination of these Japanese goods is not generally appreciated. To ascertain the value of a consignment of a hundred cases, oftentimes not exceeding \$3,000 in value, thirty cases have to be examined, whereas a package of diamonds or any other case of the same value could be examined and passed upon in twenty minutes, whereas the thirty cases would require the attention of five men for ten hours, and the same may be said with regard to the chapter class of toys.

Mr. Thomas W. Gloson is the assistant appraiser of the third division, in which the values are ascertained

to the cheaper class of toys.

Mr. Thomas W. Gioson is the assistant appraiser of the third division, in which the values are ascertained of stuff buttons, embroueries, except of gold and siver, natters plosh, laces and lace goods of every description, indies? wearing appared mane to order, silk, raw, train and organizate, and it manufactures of silk trimmings. In this division all labrics of silk and trimmings of every description are passed. The goods are subdivided into four parts. First, black and trimmings of every description are passed. The goods are subdivided into four parts. First, black and colored dress silks, black and entered silk vervets and salins; second, riobons of all kines, mixed silks, cotton goods, silk wearing appared, silk hand-kerchiefs and scirfs and silk upholitery goods; third, eilk, cotton, worsted and bead trimmings; and dowrth, cotton and then embrouerica, and lace, silk laces, real and machine made, and lace curtains. Each of these divisions is under the supervision of an examiner, appointed specially as being an expert on the articles ne is called to pass upon, and the result is that the books show an advance on invoices over their stated value. From January 1, 1876, to becember 1, 1877, the large sum of \$647,500 has been collected on goods thus raised in value over expenses. This does not include the goods cetered for dury at fity per cent and advanced to sixty per cent, which howeve amounts to a very arge sum. The act of Ferratary 8, 1875, usually called the "Silk act," makes the assessment of dury for mixed labrics very onerous and complicated, compelling a determination whether the articles have over or under twenty-five per cent at value of cetton, first, won oney he assertanted correctly by an analysis of each article to be assessed, and then valuing each component part.

cotton, fix, woil or worsted. This can only be ascertained correctly by an analysis of each article to be assessed, and then valuing each component park in the opinion of fir. Giuson the provision of this act should either be amounted or repeace, as it causes continual contention between government officers and importers. Its enforcement devolves on the assistant appearer, who is familiar with the components of all textile labrics.

EINES AND COTYON FARRICS.

Mr. William Day, an oil merchant, is the Assistant Appearser of the Fourth division. The merchandiae assigned to him for examination and appraisement consists of textiles of vegetabre, fibre yards, increads and ladar rubber. The consists of production are Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Germany and Russia. Altogether there are 125 officers to cassing control of duty, with which each examiner is hed to be theroughly conversant in order to make his return upon evamination of the merchandise. Manufacturers of cotton are assessed for duty atvarious compound rates, equal to an average of about fifty per cent an valorem, Manufacturers of fax, hemp or jute are generally assessed at advalorem rates of 35 or 40 per centum, econding to value, per square yard. Burliaps and the manufactures are assessed at the rate of 50 per centum of valorem. About three-tourism or an illuent labrics are from Ireland and Scottand; the remaining onesecording to value, per square yard. Buriups and the manufactures are assessed at the rate of 50 per cent ad valorem. About three-tourths of all lines labries are from Ireland and Scotland; the remarking one-fourth is principally from Germany and Austria. The imports of lines from France are at present moderate and connect to fine qualities. Imports of liness from Eussia consist of the articles called crash, which arrive in extensive quantities and coronaces, which arrive in extensive quantities from that port. Cotton hories and cotton inreads are extensively from Manchester, England; Glasgow and Passley, Scotland. France and Germany copply file qualities, of a character suitou to the American demand. Manufactures in part of india rubber are extensively imported from Leicester, England, France, however, supplies textures of india rubber and sitks in the finer qualities. Manufactures of integrals excussively into Dundee, Scotland, although the two former articles are extensively annufactured at Cafeutta by European capitalists, who have established works in that country to unities the East India fore. Until within three years as of une was excusively emproyed in manufacturing coarse bagging and other heavy cloths, but how it is spun into face yaring goods, curtains, table covers and carpets. During the month of November Just past, which is usually a poor month for importations, there was brought into this port about \$200,000 worth of ince and ootton harres, two-thirds of which amount was purcuased

Manchester invoices are seldom consigned. Of 115 invoices from that port received in November but a single one came on consignment.

The fifth division is in charge of Mr. William B. Host, to whom are sent for examination the following named goods. Builing. Corsets, feathers, crude and drawing joves, hats, hostery, knit goods, millinery goods, parasols, straw brains, umbrellas, worsted goods of other servicial or natural, dyed and drawing joves, hats, hostery, knit goods, millinery goods, parasols, straw brains, umbrellas, worsted goods of other servicial or a great deal of lator is pertormed in the service of the

The most nationate business in this bureau is the valuation of steets. The quality of this article no man can asceriain by simply looking at it. lesting the quality of steel, or even to make an analysis of it, would cost more than the material. The judgment in regard to this metal is largely made up from the uses to which it is applied. It requires an expert judgment in determining these values, probably greater than almost any other article that can be named. It may be said that to become an expert in judging steel a person must be born in and brought up in the business. All tue the imported also comes to this division. Block tin is free of duty, but on sheet or plate in there is a specific antly of one and one-tenth cents per pound. This is about the only single instance, merchants claim, in which the tariff seems satisfactory to the importers and just to the government. The importation of English and other cuttery has largely diminporters and just to the government. The in-tion of English and other cuttery has largely ished of late years, owing to the excellence American manufacture of this article with

This is about the only single instance, merchants claim, in which the tarif seems satisfactory to the importers and just to the government. The importation of English and other cuttery has largely diminished of late years, owing to the excellence of the American manufacture of this article, which has almost crowded the Sheffleid wares ont of the market. Him American manufacture of this article, which has almost crowded the Sheffleid wares ont of the market. Him American manufacture of this article, which has almost crowded the Sheffleid wares ont of the market in Charge of Mr. David C. Sturg s, Assistant Appraiser. The goods sent nere for examination consist of "ale, beverages, occoa, coffee, cordinis, fireworks, food, fruits, gunpowder, grain, groceries (except essential and medicinal), plants, porter, seeds, sprittoom inquors, statuary, tea, winos, cigars, eigarcites, sand and tobacca." By far the greater number of examinations conducted here are of aprituous inquors, wines and cordinis. Mr. J. McFarrington, the examiner of these goods, has been connected with this department for nearly twenty years.

In January, 1807, the department exiablished an avorage gauge to over in bottong at 25g galions for quarts and 1½ galions for pines. This was accepted generally by the trade as a correct average quitti about two years ago, when the extablished gauge was questioned at San Francesco, and since that time the average gauges have been accertained by actual measurements, and instead of a uniform gauge there have been found as many as thirty variations inquors being determined by their proofs great caution is necessary in their examination. Such care has been taken in this department to secure in the cammantone critical uniform conditions, such as naving the "up and tabe" adjusted to a dead level and to have the samples of spirits to be tested adjucted to antifer a condition in the form of the proofs great caution is necessary, even with the most careful handling of the hydromyters, to the remaining the proof of the su

A MOUNTED OFFICER INJURED.

About five o'clock last evening a team, owned and driven by Captain C. C. Duncan, of No. 51 South Oxford street, Brooklyn, ran away on Hamilton avenue, in that city. Officer Thompson, of the Mounted Squad, in attempting to stop the team was thrown

EXCISE AFFAIRS.

An Investigation Ordered of the Excise Department.

THE MANDAMUS PROCEEDINGS.

Various Steps Toward a Settlement of the Important Question.

effect upon the unbappy liquor dealers, who for the past two weeks have crowded Mulberry street in iront of the Excise building. The attendance in the morning was small, and decreased as the day adthe standing order is concerned, and both the Police and Excese Commissioners say there can be no change. For some time past there have been vague and unsatisfactory rumors concerning awindling, in the matter of receipts and licenses, by persons not officially connected with the Excise Bureau. None of these rumors have been traced to a satisfactory explanation, but the Excise Commissioners have endeavored to so conduct their office as to present, as far as they could, the possibility of the liquor dealers being de-In this connection the plan of checks adopted by Commissioner Murphy yesterday cerned. Some of the dealers claim that they have been defrauded by people who, pretending to have influence with the Board, have secured their receipts, cashed them and disappeared with the money. A young man claiming to be a newspaper writer was arrested on some such charge yesterday, but was discharged by the magistrate before whom he was taken, he denying all intention of misappropriating anything and returning the money.

liquor dealers has been the favoritism shown by cer-tian employes of the Excise bureau, in admitting persons by what is known among the anxious waiters as the "back door entrance," before their regular turn.
There is little doubt that such was the case, until yesterday, when the Commissioners made an effort to put an effectual check upon the practice. One of the moval of Edward Donaboe, Chief Clerk of the Board of

certain financial irregularities, which, it was believed, had been discovered; but Commissioner Morton stated that such was not the case. He was said to have been removed for incapacity and inefficiency.

CHARGES AGAINST EXCISE COMMISSIONERS.

On motion of Alderman Morris the following pream ble and resolutions were yesterday adopted by the Board of Aldermen in relation to the Excise Commis-

Whereas it was stated by the press last week that at the examination of the Excise Board before the Grand Jury the Commissioners had in bank, to their own credit, \$00,000 or more received from sundry persons for licenses, for which the citizons had nothing out a receipt for their money, said money being received by them in their official capacity of Commissioners of Excise. The charter of 1873 contains the following words in article 5, sections 34 and 35, viz.:—"All moneys shall be paid over to the Comptroller and Chamberiain, and it shall be descaited in the ossignated banks, where it shall draw interest on the daily balances;" and whereas in section 50 the following words appear:—"And it shall be the outy of the Common Council to provide for the accountability of all others and other persons," and whereas exciton 105 makes provision for amplect of duty, &c., and section 50 all shapes and other persons," and whereas section 107 makes provide for the one of the following words appear the magnet of duty, &c., and section 105 makes provision for amplect of duty, &c., and section 107 makes provision for amplect of duty, &c., and whereas section 107 makes provision for an office of the following the Mayor full power to appoint Commissioners of Accounts to make the own of the examination of any booke or accounts of any operation for the examination of any department, therefore be it. Resolved, That his floorer the Mayor be requested to have made a thorough examination of the receipts from the Excise Board of Excise from January 1, 1877, from all sources; showing work has been sone with said moneys received by the Board of Excise from January 1, 1877, from all sources; showing work has been sone with said moneys and the Lessived, That sill the settimony and facts taken on the Excise Board be requested to appear before the Gommissioner appointed by the Mayor, that the dates of rea Gommissioner appointed by the Mayor, that the dates and as money to an appoint of the following and be it further. are compared with those on the in the office of said Board; and be it further
Resolved, That all the festiment and facts taken on this examination be done immediately, and be printed in full in the City Record directly after the closing of said examination.

in the City Record directly after the closing of said examination.

Mr. Morris contends that he has noticed gross irregularities in the conduct of business in the Excise Bursas, Among other things he asserts that he yesterday saw a hoense in the hands of a liquor dealer which had received alone the signature of Mr. Chinds, chief cierk to the Excise Board, the names of the Commissoners being withheld. It is surmised by him that a cumber of other illegal documents of similar character may be in circulation.

Fowass in issuino Licenses.

The Law Committee of the Board of Aldermen, which consists of Messrs. Lewis Burland and Hail, have devoted some time to a consideration of the Excise quosition. Their isburs were brought to a conclusion yesterday by the introduction of a report containing a lengthy opinion from Mr. Richard O Gorman, formerly Corporation Counsel, delivered in 1807. This opinion holds that the Mayor retains the power of issuing incenses, and is contrary to the views expressed by Corporation Counsel Whitney, Mr. John McKeon, excitovernor Hoffman and others.

The report of the committee concludes as follows:—"As the learned counse for the corporation, Mr., O'Gorman, well says, the right of the city to the ownership of this franchise has never been tested directly in the courts. It is, in the judgment of your committee, the imperative duty of the city authrition to try it now and forever settle the question of the power of the Legislature of this State to deprive this city of vested pecuniary rights which are held to be sacred and removed from interference by superior power, by every other people living under acy form of government where the Emilish language is spoken. This test can only be made, as pointed out in a preamble sand resolution adopted by your nonorable body on the 10th inst, requesting His Honor the Mayor to grant tavern Heenses, or at least to grant one, in order to bring the case preperly vefore the courts. It is althour accopy of this report."

In discussing the report Alderman Purroy

with "to keep" a mandamus must issue in this case of Thompson, leaving him liable and responsible to punishment for failing to keep the premises on the strength of which the liceose was granted.

ONLY ERMBDY BY ACTION.

Mr. Dieffendori, counvel for the Commissioners, made a brief but effective reply. He contended that the mandamus saked for could not be granted, and, except to a person who had a clear legal right to the writ, the Court had no power to grant the same. He referred to the definition of the word "ins," and closely analyzed the arguments of his opponent on this point. He argued, further, that no mandamus could be granted, insenuch as the relatore had another remedy by action at law. Mr. Dieffendorf elaborated this point at some length.

In reply Judge Dittenhoeder conceded fully that a mandamus would not lie when there was an adequate remedy at law. But he insisted in this case there was no such remedy; the party aggreed could only sue the Commissioners for damages. The measure of damages would be the number of drinks he lost, and those he would be required to prove specifically. That, indeed, would be a beautiful scene—a procession of witnesses subponned to prove liceourt that they might have drank at the pishniff's house so many cocktaits and innumerable other boverages equally.

Atter some further discussion Judge Van Rossen equally.

After some further discussion Judge Van Hoesen took the papers for examination, reserving his de-

After some further discussion Judge Van Hoesen took the papers for examination, reserving his decision.

ANOTHER HASEAS CORPUS.

Two Italians, Anthony and Enrico Baeigalufo, arrested and committed by Judge Morlan on a charge of selling liquor without a license, obtained yesternay from Judge Brady, through their counsel, Mr. Wilham F. Howe, writs of habeas corpus and certiforari, the object being to test the fegality of their arrost and imprisonment. The writ was made returnable on Saturday in Supreme Court Chambers.

William Walsh, George Know and William Dugan, proprietors of the dance house near Jerry McAutey's mission, who were indicted for selling liquor without license, were arragned for trial before Recorder Hackett. The accused tentered a pies of guilty, and were remanded for senence until next Friday to allow counsel an opportunity to submit affidavits in mit gation of punishment. Jerry McAutey was among the witnesses in court ready to give his testimony. Recorder Hackett announced to Messrs. Dennis A. Speinssey and Peter Michael, counsel for Richard Eustace, Joseph Malone, Pullip Holiand, James O'Brion, Joseph Cosgrove and John Lee, that he had intended to render his decision then, but had been prevented by lilness, as well as other matters, from giving the affidavits submitted to him the consideration they deserved. Indeed ne was only too anxious to dispose of these cases, and thus be spared the annoyance of those who had called upon him, and imperimently endeavored to mould his judgment on that question. The Recorder added that he would dispose of the cases as soon as possible.

added that he would dispose of the cases as soon as possible.

IN THE COURTS.

The case of Mary Noan, charged with selling liquor without license, in which the testimony of the wilness Bleeker is disputed, was again in the Tombs Police Court yesierday. Counsellor Mundy piaced another young man on the stand, who corroborated Bleeker's evidence. Counsellor Oliver, who appeared for the defendant, protested against Bleeker's evidence being admitted. The Court heid the prisoner in \$100 bail, after which Mr. Mundy withdrew the complaints against Moster & Blal, Mr. Kramer and a few, others, on the ground that other complaints were against them.

Judge Blixby, at Jefferson Market Court, disposed of ten cases of violation of the Excise law, and Judge Smith, at Essex Market Court, disposed on six.

There were five hiquor dealers arrangued in the Fifty-seventh Street Court. John Cannon, of No. 344 East Forty-sixth street, bad his store closed, but officer Goodenough, of the Nineteenth precinct, looked through a rent in the window curtain and saw what he deemed to be liquor passed over the counter. Judge Murray discharged the prisoner, as he considered the evidence insufficient.

Two saloon keepers were held in the Harlem Police Court.

ARKERTE YESTERDAY.

Coark

ARRESTS TESTERDAY.

First precinct.—Henry Benrius, No. 28 New street, Fourth precinct.—John Farley, No. 100 Catherine street; Patrick Hearn, No. 34 Cherry street; William Smith, No. 188 Chatham.

Firth precinct.—Herman Webrenberg, No. 885 Carmine street.

Thirteenth precinct.—Henry Paul, No. 384 Grand street; Dennis McCarthy, No. 85½ Stieriff street; John Martin, No. 255 Delancey street; Gottried Gumbermann, No. 95 Attorney street; Dennis Salleran, No. 406 Grand street; George Smith, No. 233 Delancey street, and Fredrick Kropka, No. 56 Goerick street.

Sixteenth precinct.—John Wright, No. 208 West Twentieth street; Martin Grouse, No. 104 Seventh avenue.

REV. DR. HOWARD CROSSY'S DEFENCE OF THE LIQUOR LAW.

Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, chairman of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, delivered a discourse last evening at Association Hall on the "Excise Law in Relation to Civic Order."

What are the facts? the speaker asked. That there are 10,000 places in this city where flery liquor is sold and that mainly in the defiance of law. Four-fifths of these are without a license, and one-half of this number have never even attempted to procure a license. According to no guesswork, but to the highest statistical authority in this city, seveneighths of crime and pauperism arises from the groggeries of New York. Have you ever followed up the
cases at the various mendicants that apply to you
for aid? If you have done it you must have found
that rum has done it all, and rum sold at the corner
groggeries. But for the evit wrought by rum you
and I have to pay, and one of the causes
for the heavy taxation lies in this enormous
sale of rum. I need not tell you of
the wholesaie desolation that is spread through the
city, the starystom of wives, the runs of fortunes, but
last tesman's studies and travels in search of knowledge; his colloge triumphs, love of books and cultured
society. Among the works that earliest attracted his
attention were Byrog, Shakespeare, Burton's Anatomy
of Melancholy and Chosterfield's letters. Among unsationistic free
attention were Byrog, Shakespeare, Burton's Anatomy
of Melancholy and Chosterfield's letters. Among unsationistic free
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let us put these facts in the category of those on which we have to base our superstructure.

What shall we do to stay this graintic evil? There are some extremists who lavor total prohibition. The great objection to this would be that such a law would do violence to the conscience of the commanity. Such laws have a demorshizing effect in this, that they teach the people to live in continued of ance of the law. The other extremists again favor iree rum. Of this view I need not speak here at length. We certainly have not come here to uphold it. These men raise the cry of liberty, but government does no more violence to the principle of liberty in restraining and restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor than it does in restricting the saie of liquor one; you work day by day to keep rowly ism rampant and to spread pauperism throughout the community. Then there is another cry—namely, that we create a disturbance, a maddle, to trying to entore the forement that when the write opened the parlor door and saw the husband affectionately engaged with the parlor mad, he said, "dane, always told you that your prying ways would bring the found to the foundable."

The fuerice ov the excess the figure of the figure of the difference which it made between hotels and groggeries was a sound and just one. Hotels were generally kept by men who had some conscience left and could at least the appealed to, while the man who kept a corner groggery had loft all conscience behind long ago. Where, then, was the maddle? Certainly it was not necessary for the decision of the Court of Appeals to have excluded, while the man who kept a corner groggery had loft all conscience behind long ago.

The foundable of the man who had som

were instructed to make reports on the character of the saioous they visited, and Langworthy reported to the Board of Aidermen that Roche kept a disorderly house and that a murder was committed on the premises. Mr. Roche's counsel no tified Langworthy that three weeks would be allowed him to retract the charge, but he refused to do so. The Society for the Prevention of Crime, finding that an injustice was done to Mr. Roche, discharged Langworthy from its service; but the Order of American Union refused to act in the matter as legislation was deemed necessary to render the Sunday law more effective and Mr. Langworthy being a prominent member of the order insisted on this legislation. Mr. Emmons, a very respectable gentleman in the Borgen district of Jersey City and secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, insisted that reparation should be made to Mr. Roche for the slander cast upon him and as Langworthy refused a suit for slander was commenced, damages being had at \$10,000. Among the withesaes were Chief of Police Nathan and excented that a murder was committed that Mr. Roche kept a very orderly saloon; that his personal character was unimpeachable, and that the statement that a murder was committed in his saloon was a sheer labrication. Counsel for the delence moved for a nonsuit on alternative of the saloon, constituted a disorderly house under the statute, but Judge Knapp desied the motion, as the gravamen of the charge was a specific statement that the offendant could not therefore take sheller under a technical plea. An extraordinary scene then occurred in court. Too deemdant pleaded his own case, examined the witnesses, and was repeatedly called to order by Judge Knapp. He pleaded in defence that his designation of the character of Mr. Roce we specific statement that the socratury went on the shand and flaty contradicted Langworthy. Judge Knapp charged the jury and a verdict was rendered in lavor of the paintieff, assessing the damages at \$50 and costs. The Executive Committee of the Liquor D

LECTURE OF A. OAKEY HALL.

"WHAT WILL THE VERDICT BE ?" IN PROOKLYN. A. Oakey Hall's famous lecture, "What Will the Verdict Be?" was delivered at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, last night. His effort drew a crowder encomiums on the matter and the manner of delivery of the lecture. There was, therefore, great curtosity in the City of Churches in regard to a first appearance

platform from a side door, and, taking a leisurely survey of the audience, began his lecture without any platform from a side door, and, taking a leisurely survey of the audience, bogan his lecture without any formality. In manner and appearance he is still the same magnetic and captivating orator as in the more paimy days of his history, when he was the pride and mouthpiece of the New York democracy and a shining light of the legal profession. Physically, too, be remains unchanged, save that his mustacte has taken a whiter tint and his voice is deeper. He has all the vim and dian of a young man still, and his animal spirits keep bubbling over with mirth and bonhomic. His lecture was in every souse a repedition of that delivered in Boston, which was at the time extensively noticed in the Heradd. It is a schointly, briting, versatile and elequent production, evidently the work of great research, much study, and shows in delivery and design the work of a master hand—such a lecture, in fact, as could only be delivered by one of Mr. Hail's peculiar temperament, endowments and experiences. It is sparkling with wit and happy points, and, as a matter of course, the audience is kept pleased and interested from the opening passage to the close. Mr. Hail never tries after declamatory effect. His great power over his audience seems to lie in the very absence of effort or posturing. He uses neither book, note nor manuscript, but bubbles all over with the very refinement of wit, the unatunied grace of the orator and the classical attainments of the scholar, "Whai Will the Vergict Be?" is undountedly a remarkable preduction, and could only be composed by a remarkable mad. The audience throughout manifested the greatest interest and irequently bestowed bearty and liberal applaues. Mr. Hail alier the holidays will secture in Cincunatt, Cieveland and otter Western cities, but, as he remarked to a Heraddie reported last night, he will not accept any ongagement for New York. "It is no novely to bear me speak there and I don't think I shall make the venture," said Mr. Hail.

SUMNER'S LITERARY FRIENDSHIPS.

The private life and literary friendships of Charles Summer formed the subject of a paper read by Hon. Edward L. Pierce at the meeting of the Long Island Historical Society, in the Second Presbyterian Church, corner of Fulton and Clinton streets, Brooklyn, last evening. Mr. Pierce told the story of the budding statesman's studies and travels in search of knowlthere mentioned. The Earl of Carlisle, Thomas Crawford, the artist: Thoudore S. Paine, Basil Montague, Michael Chevalier, the economist; Felix, a learned jurisl, who had emigrated from the Rhenish provinces to Paris, and many other distinguished men were his friends. In New York his friendship embraced Kent, Jacob Harvey, a distinguished Irishman, the Jays and Benjamin D. Sillimas.

In politics sir. Sumner was described as one who had no retainers to provide for. He never promoted an appointment with the slightest thought of its effect on his public career. This was a lesson for Senators who now seek to keep the public offices for their henchmen in opposition to the civil service views of a good President. (Applause.)

"RISE AND FALL OF THE MUSTACHE."

Mr. Robert J. Burdette, of the Burlington (Iowa) Hawkeys, delivered his humorous lecture entitled "The Rise and Fall of the Mustache" last evening in the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church, Brook lyn, for the benefit of the Sunday school of the Seventh Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. The Seventh Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. The speaker was introduced by Kev. J. S. Breckenridge." Adam, he said, was not the first man—to raise a mustache. He was too old when he was born, and it raised itself. Besides he had no time, as he had to raise Cale. But you have he time, the speaker continued, to pity Adam. You, perhaps, have a. boy of your own, who wants to become a missionary or a pirate, a little rather a pirate. As the boy develops he discovers that he has two hands—one pair—which is a good hand. (laughter.) "I did not mean that for this audience," said the speaker; "I did not think it would be understood."

the control Torrowskie against the Mayor, had decreed that the Logalators and the profess to motify of actions and the Logalators and the profess to motify of actions of the profess of the control of the profess of t

THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Ely Demands to Know Why They Should Not Be Removed.

NEGLECT OF THE PUBLIC STREETS.

Governor Robinson's Opinion on the Mayor's Power.

Mayor Ely yesterday alternoon took the preliminary steps for removal of the Police Commissioners. Ru-mors that such steps would soon be inaugurated were Mayor did not come to any definite conclusion in the matter until three o'clock yesterday. At that hour nished them with copies of a letter which had been sent to three of the Police Commissioners—Messrs, Joel B. Erhardt, De Witt C. Wheeler and Sidney P. Nichols. The fourth Commissioner, General William

THE INVESTIGATION.

The Mayor had nothing further to say in relation to the charges than the statements conveyed in the above ester. As to the result of the investigation he remarked:—"Unless the hearing brings to my mind something which I do not know now I will remove them. As to General Smith, he went to Europe with my consent, and, under the circumstances, it would be taking an uniair advantage to remove him during his absence."

be taking an uniair advantage to remove him during his absence. The commissioner expected upon Commissioner Erhardt to get his views upon the absorbing police matters. The Commissioner expressed himself in an exceedingly decided manner as to the part he had taken in the prevailing excise troubles. He claimed that the order to chierce the existing statutes was a proper one. The police force could not interpret laws for themselves, but they recall and would enforce them after proper interpretation. The Excise law before its recent explanation was considerably muddled, but after the decision of the Court of Appeals it was made plain, and it was the duty of the police, as law officers, to enforce it. As for himself, when he took the eath of office he promised to uphold the constitution and enforce the laws. For hie part, he proposed to enforce the law to the letter, and no indusnes, political or otherwise, would prevail in deterring him from performing his duties so long as he remained a public officer. Nothing was said as to the strictures of the Mayor in regard to the neglect of the strictures of the Mayor in regard to the neglect of the streets.

Commissioners Notcols and Wheeler were invisible.

THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioners Nictols and Wheeler were invisible.
The former had not returned to his house up to
one o'clock this morning, and no knowledge
of his whereabouts could be obtained by the reporter.
Commissioner Wheeler was reported to be out of town.

REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE. The Republican Contral Committee held their last meeting for this year at Republican Hall, Thirty-third street and Broadway, last evening. In the absence of Benjamin K. Pheips, the prosident, General Joseph C. Pinckney, vice president, presided. The Executive Committee met in secret session at half-past seven o'clock, and through their chairman, Mr. Joel W. Mason, sent in the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas the Mayer of the city, forgetting that he is in such matters placed by the charter in a judicial position, has himself preferred general charges against three of the Police Commissioners, and has required them to answer without allowing them a reasonable time for preparation; and

without allowing them a reasonable time to propose and
Whereas such charges are based in part, at least, upon
matters as to which be has himself declared that the
Commissioners are not in fault; therefore
iteroived, That we denounce this act of the Mayor as a
stransparent attempt to secure a partisan Poice Board, an
attempt in which he has notoriously risided to the clamors
of those who desire to prevent the enforcement of the exlisting laws, and who seem to think that the best way to secure from a republican Legisirture modification of those
laws is by attacking republicas officials.

After the adoption of the resciptions and the read-

THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION. TBY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. 1

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 18, 1877. In conversation with a figrand representative this vening Governor Robinson stated that the charter o 1873 distinctly places the removal of the Police Com-1873 distinctly places the removal of the Police Commissioners upon the Mayor of New York city; that officials a hearing, and if he decides there is sufficient cause for their removal he must report his decision to the Governor. If the decision meets with the Governor's approval the Commissioners shall be removed; if not, the officials continue in office. The Mayor, as chief executive of the city, must assume the responsibility placed upon him by the terms of the law. This is the Governor's understanding of the law, and his action will be guided by it. He expressed surprise that any different opinion could be held, and added that the charter of New York had been changed so often that the residents of the metropolis may be pardoned for not being familiar with its details.

FRANK HILTON'S FATE.

Information was received yesterday by County Physician Ward, of Newark, of the sad tate of a young man named Frank Hilton, whose parents reside of Belleville avenue. Three weeks ago Frank mysteriously disappeared from home, he being then in an unsound state of mind. It was supposed that he had gone to England when it was found that he had not taken roluge with friends in West Orange. Near where the latter live, between First and Second mountains, dwells a Mr. Smith Pierson. On Monday morning Mr. Pierson heard strange noises in me barn. Repairing there he found Frank Hilton, his emacisted ince, glassy eyes and grasping condition plainly denoting that he was open from hugger and exposure. He was able to relate how that after wandering in the woods for saveral days he was attracted to Pierson's house by a light four rights before, crawled into the barn to obtain sleep and bocame so lesone that he could not leave next morning. Four days he lay there family, it is lather was sent for and everything possible done for him, but he died yeaterlay morning. After investigation Dr. Ward granted a certificate of burial, and the body was removed to the late nome of deceased in Newark.

WILLIAMSBURG ROBBERIES.

A numerously attended funeral took place at St. Pani's Lutheran Church, on the corner of South First services several persons had their pockets picked. Officer Simons, who was on the alert, detected Etten Wilson, aged thirty-five years, in the act of robbing

Wilson, aged thirty-five years, in the act of robbing Mrs. William Kohimeier and arrested her. Whon searched at the Fith precision station Elien and 28 12 in sundry small amounts, supposed to be proceeds of different robberies.

Detective Short, who had been shadowing three suspicious obstractors through Williamsburg last evening, insaily caught them in the act of thereing a basement door in south Ninth street. They all ran away, but after a long chare he captured Daniel Flying, twenty years, of No. 90 Lewis street, this city.

Charles Bruen, owner of the stables on the corner of Wythe avenue, and Waliabout street, Williamsburg, caught Thomas Kerwin, aged twenty-two years, of Keet avenue, near Myrtic avenue, in the act of forcing open his stable door last evening. He turned Kerwin over to Officer McClusky, who recognized the fellow as a well known thiol, but a short time released from prison.

HIGHWAYMEN ARRESTED.

Between seven and eight o'clock last evening the Lock street, and lodged him in the station house to await examination on a charge of being one of the persons who attacked Simon Hauser in Warren street last Sunday evening, and robbing him of \$80 in cash and \$1,200 in notes and checks. Desmond is an old and \$1,200 in notes and checks. Desmond is an old thief, and has just got out of the Penntentiary, where he was sent for a term of eighteen months for breaking into and roboung Heinisch's cuttery factory, the is twenty-four years of age. His alleged accompice in the Hauser crime is one Joseph Crowley, who was also arrested early yesterday morning white serving as a committeeman at an Apolio Hall ball. Crowley has served in the Penntentiary and State Friend.